

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

A Message from the Environmental Health Department Regarding DeSoto's 100% Smoke Free Ordinance

The City's new smoke-free ordinance goes into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, January 1, 2016. In addition to smoking restrictions that already exist under state law, there will be new restrictions on smoking and vaping (use of electronic smoking devices) in many locations across the city.

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. It causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases (such as emphysema), and diabetes. More than 20 million people in the United States have died from smoking-related diseases since 1964, including 2.5 million nonsmokers as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke. This ordinance addresses a major threat to public health by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke and encouraging smokers to quit.

As this ordinance was passed in the interest of public health, the DeSoto Health Department is the lead agency for its implementation. We want to work with you to ensure a successful launch of this major public health initiative that will improve the health of our community for years to come.

A toolkit of information has been posted to the City website at www.desototexas.gov that is intended to assist residents and the business community in understanding and complying with the ordinance, as well as educating your employees and patrons about the ordinance. The toolkit includes an overview of the ordinance and frequently asked questions, an implementation checklist, a model "no smoking or vaping" sign, employee training material, resources to help smokers quit, and more. We hope that this information will be helpful as you transition your business to a smoke-free environment. The DeSoto Health Department welcomes your input on this important public health issue. Please contact us by phone at 972.230.9600.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Stephens

Jimmy Stephens, RS, MS
DeSoto Environmental Health Manager



City Calendar

December

1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
3 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
3 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
5 Holiday Parade - dusk - Hampton Rd.
7 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6pm
7 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
8 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
21 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm
24 Christmas Eve - city facilities closed
25 Christmas Day - city facilities closed

January

1 New Year's Day - city facilities closed
4 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm
4 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
7 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
18 MLK Holiday - city facilities closed
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
30 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am



**FREE WIRELESS INTERNET
HOTSPOT**



Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson and Sen. Royce West joined DeSoto City Council members to honor our Veterans on 11-7 by unveiling Local Veterans Photo Exhibit now on display at City Hall.

Did You Know... That There is a Heliport in DeSoto?

There is a heliport in DeSoto and it is located in the Eagle Industrial Park on Daniieldale Road. Since DeSoto Heliport's grand opening in 2014, they have been busy making DeSoto known in the vertical aviation community as the place to be.

DeSoto Heliport's fixed base operator, SKY Helicopters, recently won a contract to train FAA Aviation Safety Inspectors at their

facility. FAA Rotorcraft Inspectors from around the country will come to DeSoto for a two-week training course. The FAA expects to send around 150 employees per year to the course, resulting in about 2,000 room nights for local hotels and restaurants. SKY recently hired nine new Instructor/Pilots to satisfy this contract and many of these new employees and their families now live in DeSoto. The only other location in the country where the FAA offers this type of training is Alliance Airport in Fort Worth for their fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.

PHI Air Medical, a leading air

ambulance provider, recently located their

maintenance and administrative base for their north Texas fleet of air medical helicopters at the DeSoto Heliport.

Texas Helicopter Experience ("THE"), a helicopter tour company, has also



relocated to DeSoto Heliport. They recently began offering helicopter tours of the DFW area from DeSoto. THE is linked to a number of social media sites including Groupon, Vimibly, and Rush Cube and will be offering helicopter Christmas light tours from DeSoto between Thanksgiving and New Years this year. For more information go to www.texashelicopterexperience.com.

"The dream of a vertical flight facility in DeSoto is now a reality and we are starting to see the fruits of the investment made by the City of DeSoto, DeSoto Economic Development Corporation, the Texas Department of Transportation and SKY Helicopters," said DeSoto Mayor Pro Tem, Curtistene McCowan. "The economic impact the facility is making on our hotels, restaurants and local businesses is an added benefit."

Meet the City of DeSoto Animal Control Officers

DeSoto Animal Control officers provide a vital service every day to make DeSoto a great place to live, work and play. They enforce City Ordinances that require all dogs to be restrained at all times with a leash, chain or cable, or inside a fence. They also investigate reports of animal abuse or neglect and verify that all dogs and cats they encounter have current rabies tags.

In the City Lights Newsletter for November, you had the opportunity to learn about the City of DeSoto Code Enforcement Officers. To ensure that the City Ordinance regarding animal control is enforced, you need strong, well-rounded individuals to get the job done. Now we would like to introduce the men who provide the service of animal control for the citizens of DeSoto.

Meet Joshua Worthy, Edward Lindamood and Jason Brown. These are the men who handle the calls regarding stray animals, wildlife and other concerns regarding Animal Control.

Joshua Worthy



Joshua has been with the City of DeSoto for nearly two years. He covers our entire community and enforces city and state laws regarding animal control. Joshua patrols and responds to citizens' concerns and complaints in addition to the pickup of loose and stray animals. Joshua has received numerous commendation letters from the City and residents of DeSoto for his hard work and dedication. Here's an excerpt from one of them.

"Joshua is a professional and remains sensitive in any ordeal," said Mr. Ray Crowder, a long time DeSoto resident. "If you have a good guy award or board, make sure Josh's name is on that list."

Edward Lindamood



Edward has been with the City of DeSoto for a year and a half. Edward patrols the entire community for stray animals, removes deceased animals from roadways, helps control urban wildlife within the city and assists with educating citizens on City Ordinances. He also provides assistance to the Cedar Hill and Duncanville Animal Control departments, as needed. Edward has been frequently recognized with various commendations for his loyal and devoted service to the citizens of DeSoto.

Jason C Brown, Sr.



Jason has been employed with the City of DeSoto as a part-time Animal Control Officer since January 2014. He has been commended in the DeSoto Employee Recognition Program many times for going above-and-beyond the call of duty. He has over 12 years of experience working in Animal Control with other cities in the North Texas area.

"I love this job because I get to work directly with citizens concerning animal control issues and to educate the public about animal safety," said Jason. "Also, you have to be a people person as well," said Jason.

"Our Animal Control Officers have received many commendations for providing good customer service to citizens of DeSoto," said Charles Humphrey, Code Enforcement Manager. "They are very professional and kind individuals" said Charles. "We are truly fortunate to have them working for the Code Enforcement Department."

DeSoto's Domestic Violence Advisory Committee Sponsors Student Essay Contest

DeSoto's Domestic Violence Advisory Committee sponsored an Essay Contest for DeSoto ISD students in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Students were asked to submit a one to two page essay about what the City of DeSoto could do to either, decrease domestic violence in our community, or prevent domestic violence from becoming an even greater problem. 178 essays were received from DeSoto ISD's three middle schools.

"We were very pleased to see that, with the first attempt to hear from our youth on this important topic, the response was so great," said Trudy Lewis, Chair of the Domestic Violence Advisory Committee. Here are the winners:

West Middle School:

1st Place - Quetzali Smith
2nd Place - Sherlyn Ayala
3rd Place - Jade Palmer

McCowan Middle School:

1st Place - Ariyonna Bennet
2nd Place - Faith Pogue
3rd Place - Abigail Jobe

East Middle School

1st Place - Autumn Mickens
2nd Place - Alexia Taylor
3rd Place - Darre'on Gaut

Winners received a \$75 gift card for 1st Place, \$50 for 2nd Place, and a \$25 gift card for 3rd Place for their efforts. All



winners and their families attended the November 3rd DeSoto City Council meeting and are pictured above.

SATURDAY DECEMBER

05

43rd ANNUAL HOMETOWN HOLIDAY PARADE

HAMPTON ROAD, DESOTO

5:30PM



FALCON FLYERS JUMP CLUB

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TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY'S MARCHING BAND

JUMP FOR JOY!



Youth Basketball Winter League 2015-16

www.desototexas.gov/parks

Registration: November 9 - December 27

DeSoto Youth Basketball is a local league for boys and girls ages 4 through 14. Our goal is to teach basketball fundamentals and skills. We emphasize sportsmanship, team play and clean/fair competition.

Registration fees will cover league operational costs:

- Participant Awards
- League Insurance
- Officials/Scorekeepers
- Equipment
- Criminal Background Checks for Volunteers
- Energy Management Fees
- Administrative Costs

If you have questions please contact, league coordinator Lawanda Jeter at youthsports@desototexas.gov.

League games will begin on January 16, 2016

No Admission Fees to Games | Adequate Practice Space

Ages
4 - 14 for boys and girls
Ages as of September 1 of the current school year

Late Registration Period
Registration: December 28 thru January 5 (Additional \$15)

Cost
\$5 Sports ID Card for all ages

Age 4 - \$50 DeSoto/Glenn Heights Residents | \$70 Non-Residents

Ages 5-14 - \$60 DeSoto/Glenn Heights Residents | \$80 Non-Residents

**DeSoto Recreation Center
Hours of Operation**

- ▶ Monday - Thursday 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- ▶ Friday 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday 6:45 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.



DeSoto Parks
& Recreation

211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. DeSoto, TX, 75115
972.230.9655 | www.desototexas.gov/parks